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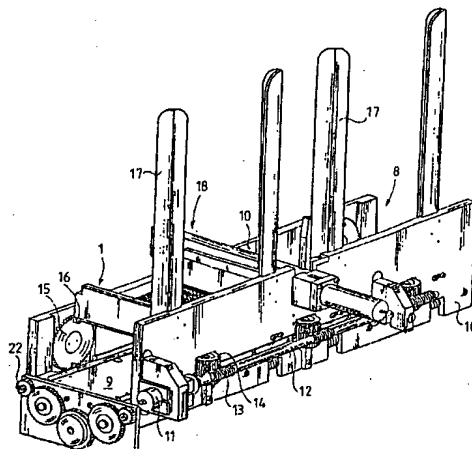
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **3DHIS-TECH KFT.** [HU/HU]; Konkoly-Thege M. u. 29-33., H-1121 BUDAPEST (HU).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **VIRÁG, Tibor** [HU/HU]; Lidérc u. 40-42., H-1121 BUDAPEST (HU). **LÁSZLÓ, Attila** [HU/HU]; Görbe u. 10/a., H-1112 BUDAPEST (HU). **VARGA, Viktor Sebestyén** [HU/HU]; Deák Ferenc u. 4., H-2119 PÉCEL (HU). **MOLNÁR, Béla** [HU/HU]; Kulich Gyula u. 4., H-1182 Budapest (HU).
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(54) Title: SLIDE FEEDING UNIT FOR AN AUTOMATIC SCANNING MICROSCOPE



(57) Abstract: A slide feeding unit for a microscope includes a slide magazine having a base plate; a toothed rack secured to a magazine side wall; and slide guiding elements perpendicular to an open magazine side. The unit further includes a magazine moving mechanism having a magazine-receiving trough including opposite side plates. Two rotary shafts supported by the trough extend along the trough side plates. Magazine-advancing feeding gears are supported by the side plates and may mesh with the toothed magazine rack. Lifting gears, held in the side plates, have pins on which the magazine is supported when raised or lowered. Driving worm gears are rotated by the shafts and mesh with the feeding gears and the lifting gears. The unit also includes a slide feeding device having a robot arm displaceable perpendicularly to the direction of advance of the magazine for removing a slide from the magazine.

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